

**OPENING STATEMENT OF  
CONGRESSMAN PAUL E. KANJORSKI  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM  
MOVING FROM NEED-TO-KNOW TO NEED-TO-SHARE:  
A REVIEW OF THE 9-11 COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2004**

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Thank you Chairman Davis and Ranking Member Waxman, I appreciate the opportunity to offer my views at the first hearing in the House on the Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States.

Late last month, the 9-11 Commission released its much-anticipated final report, which examines the circumstances surrounding the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks and provides recommendations for preventing future terrorist strikes. This report is the culmination of nineteen days of public hearings, a review of 2.5 million pages of documents, interviews of 1,200 individuals in ten countries, and public testimony of 160 witnesses.

As we begin our review of the 9-11 report, I would urge my colleagues to consider the recommendations of the commission as a whole, rather than identifying a single proposed reform for review or examining these matters on a piecemeal basis. By focusing only on certain aspects of the report, we risk losing the overall intent of the commission's recommendations. We need to see the forest and the trees, not either the forest or the trees.

Nevertheless, today's hearing is intended to consider the recommendations of the commission regarding the creation of a National Intelligence Director and the formation of the National Counterterrorism Center within the Executive Office of the President. These recommendations have already sparked considerable public debate.

On the one hand, the National Intelligence Director and the National Counterterrorism Center must have independent budgetary authority and the ability to make personnel changes as necessary. In addition, the director must have the ability to do so without pressure from the intelligence agencies under its jurisdiction. On the other hand, placing the center and the director within the Executive Office of the President may shift the intelligence operations closer to the politics within the White House and may influence the intelligence gathering system. Such a result would cause considerable concern for me.

Moreover, I am very troubled by recent press reports that indicate that the President may unilaterally issue an executive order to create the position of National Intelligence Director. In doing so, no Congressional confirmations would be held to ensure the director is properly vetted. In implementing the recommendations of the commission, we must provide the appropriate checks and balances.

As we begin our review of the recommendations included in the 9-11 report, we also need to ensure that the Congress adequately addresses these matters in the long term. I have, therefore, joined with many of my colleagues in supporting legislation to extend the 9-11 Commission for 18 months, in order to oversee the implementation of its recommendations. I would encourage the other members of our panel to also support this bipartisan bill.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, thank you again for the opportunity to express my initial thoughts and I yield back the balance of my time.

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